

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12957 01 OF 02 071923Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 NRC-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 DOEE-00
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P 071901Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2728
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 12957

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UNGA, SOPN, UR
SUBJECT: KORNIYENKO PRESS CONFERENCE ON SSOD AND OTHER
ISSUES

1. SUMMARY: KORNIYENKO'S JUNE 6 PRESS CONFERENCE "IN
CONNECTION WITH" THE SSOD SESSION INDICATED SOME ADJUST-
MENTS AND FINE-TUNING OF SOVIET SSOD "INITIATIVES," BY
CHANGING PRIORITIES AND DROPPING SOME PROPOSALS, POSSIBLY
IN RESPONSE TO SIGNALS GIVEN TO THEM IN NY BY OTHER DELE-
GATIONS. ON NON-SSOD ISSUES, KORNIYENKO TOOK QUESTIONS
AND RESPONDED, BUT DID NOT SIGNIFICANTLY DEPART FROM
STANDARD SOVIET POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 12957 01 OF 02 071923Z

2. IN AN UNUSUAL PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 6 SOVIET FIRST
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER G.M. KORNIYENKO SPOKE TO THE
SOVIET AND FOREIGN PRESS CORPS "IN CONNECTION WITH" THE
SSOD. THIS IS KORNIYENKO'S FIRST SUCH MEETING WITH THE
PRESS AND IS ALL THE MORE REMARKABLE BECAUSE THE SSOD
SESSION HAS NOT YET ENDED AND BECAUSE HE COVERED A NUMBER
OF TOPICS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE SSOD. ASSUMING

DEPARTMENT HAS TASS/FBIS REPORTS OF KORNIYENKO'S REMARKS
WE WISH TO HIGHLIGHT THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

3. THE LISTING OF SOVIET PROPOSALS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SSOD IS DIFFERENT IN KORNIYENKO'S PRESS CONFERENCE FROM THE LISTING IN BREZHNEV'S KOMSOMOL SPEECH OF APRIL 25, AND FROM GROMYKO'S ADDRESS TO THE SSOD. THE DIFFERENCES INDICATE MODIFICATIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS RATHER THAN MAJOR CHANGES AND DEPARTURES FROM THE BREZHNEV/GROMYKO GAME PLAN FOR THE SSOD AND MAY HAVE RESULTED FROM CORRIDOR SOUNDINGS IN NY BY THE SOVIET DELEGATION. KORNIYENKO SEEMS TO HAVE REDEFINED THE SOVIET OBJECTIVES AT THE SSOD TO REDUCE THE ATTENTION TO CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL MEASURES AND TO INCREASE THE STRESS ON NUCLEAR CONTROLS. THUS, HIS FOUR POINTS REPEAT THE NON-PRODUCTION AND NO-MDW PROPOSALS OF BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO, BUT RAISE THE NEGATIVE ASSURANCE ISSUE TO SECOND PLACE IN THE LISTING, AND ADD A NEW PROPOSAL ON NO DEPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON THE TERRITORY OF STATES WHERE THERE ARE NOT SUCH WEAPONS DEPLOYED NOW. MISSING ARE THE CONVENTIONAL WEAPON SUGGESTIONS WHICH THE TWO OTHER LEADERS INCLUDED IN THEIR SPEECHES. KORNIYENKO INDICATES THAT HIS LISTING IS DEFINITIVE BY SAYING THAT IT CONSTITUTES THE "NEW SOVIET INITIATIVES PUT FORWARD FROM THE HIGH ROSTRUM" OF THE SSOD. FINALLY, ON THESE POINTS KORNIYENKO HAS ADDED TO THE NON-PRODUCTION PROPOSAL A CLAUSE WHICH WOULD TIE SUCH

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 12957 01 OF 02 071923Z

AN AGREEMENT TO SPECIAL SECURITY GUARANTEES. NEITHER BREZHNEV NOR GROMYKO HAD SUCH A PROVISIO, ALTHOUGH THIS PROVISION WAS MENTIONED IN A SEPARATE SECTION OF GROMYKO'S SSOD SPEECH.

4. KORNIYENKO ALSO GIVES AS A SOVIET GOAL FOR THE SSOD THE FIXING OF A DEFINITE DATE FOR THE CONVENING OF THE WDC, SOMETHING WHICH THE SOVIETS HAD NOT INDICATED PUBLICALLY (OR PRIVATELY TO OUR KNOWLEDGE) THEY HOPED TO ACHIEVE AT THE SSOD, ALBEIT SOME ENDORSEMENT OF THE WDC WAS CLEARLY AMONG THEIR DESIRED GOALS.

5. KORNIYENKO IS ALSO MORE EXPLICIT AND POSITIVE ABOUT THE VALUE OF PARTIAL ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE PROPOSALS THAN WERE EITHER BREZHNEV OR GROMYKO, ALTHOUGH BREZHNEV HINTED THAT HE THOUGHT THE PLATTER OF SOVIET PROPOSALS WAS POSSIBLY TOO MUCH FOR THE SSOD TO HANDLE WHEN HE SAID IN HIS KOMSOMOL SPEECH THAT AT LEAST A START SHOULD BE MADE BY WORKING ON THE PROPOSAL FOR NON-PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. KORNIYENKO STATES THAT EVEN IF THE MEASURES HE LISTS WERE "CARRIED OUT PARTIALLY," THIS WOULD BE "IMPORTANT."

6. KORNIYENKO SEEMS TO BE LESS FLEXIBLE THAN HIS SUPERIORS WERE ON THE ISSUE OF PARTICIPATION OF CHINA AND OTHER IN THE ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE REACHED. NOT ONLY DOES HE DEMAND ADHERENCE BY ALL POWERS ("UNIVERSAL" ADHERENCE) TO AGREEMENTS REACHED, BUT HE DENOUNCES ANY ATTEMPTS BY A NUCLEAR POWER TO PLAY "CATCH-UP" BEFORE ENTERING AGREEMENTS TO CONTROL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, SINCE HE ASSERTS, THIS WILL ONLY LEAD TO A CONTINUATION OF THE ARM RACE.

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12957 02 OF 02 071926Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 12957

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7. APART FROM THE SSOD, KORNIYENKO SHOWS UP AS DEFENSIVE ON THE QUESTIONS OF INTERVENTION IN AFRICA BY THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS AND ON THE ISSUE OF THE SOVIET MILITARY BUILD- IN EUROPE. HE ALSO DEALT BRIEFLY WITH CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION. HE TOOK THE STANDAR SOVIET LINE THAT PRIMARY IMPORTANCE MUST BE PLACED ON ESTABLISHING POLITICAL-LEGAL CRITERIA IN ANY CAT LIMITA- TIONS. THIS IS, HOWEVER, THE FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT WE ARE AWARE OF BY A HIGH SOVIET OFFICIAL ON THE SUBJECT OF CAT AND THE POLITICAL-LEGAL CRITERIA.

8. KORNIYENKO'S PREPARED STATEMENT CONTAINED ONLY ONE
BRIEF, BLAND REFERENCE TO SALT, BUT IN REPLY TO A QUESTIO
HE ASSERTED THAT HE THOUGHT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 12957 02 OF 02 071926Z

COMMITTED TO CONCLUDING SALT, ALTHOUGH IT IS ENSUING A
"LINE THAT IS NOT SPEEDING UP BUT PUTTING OFF THIS AGREE-
MENT." HE REFERRED TO THIS AS "NOT UNDERSTANDABLE."
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